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Editorial

The centenary of diplomatic relations between Germany and Ethiopia celebrated this year on 7 March has shaped many aspects of scholarly cooperation in Ethiopian studies. Traditional disciplines in such areas of humanities as history, linguistics, literature and ethnography have been influenced by this anniversary, and, even more importantly, fields of high developmental political relevance for the *Orbis Aethiopicus* have been involved, including subjects relevant for the *Aethiopica* journal. In his contribution, Asfa Wossen Assefate directly refers to this historical event, the articles by Gerd Gräber and Wolbert Smidt are indirectly connected to it.

In this issue we had to include more brief obituaries on the recently deceased colleagues than ever before. One of them (by Denis Nosnitsin) is devoted to **Sevir Chernetsov** who had been a member of the editorial board since the very first issue of the journal and was responsible for the contributions in the field of traditional literature and history of the region. As his replacement, the board has called **Alessandro Bausi** from the Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale” to join in, beginning with vol. 9 (2006). I would like to use this opportunity to thank **Arthur Irvine**, who had served the journal since 1998, for his thorough proofreading of a large number of articles, and **David Appleyard** from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, who is going to take up his place beginning with vol. 9.

It has always been the aim of the journal to enhance its ethnological competence. We are therefore glad to announce that **Ulrich Braukämper**, Universität Göttingen, has also agreed to join the editors. The Hamburg team would like to heartily welcome the new members and express its sincere gratitude for their cooperation.

Every now and again we, unfortunately, learn much too late about the recent publications of our colleagues, so that we cannot accommodate the corresponding announcements in the section “Recent Publications” on time. Therefore I would like to suggest that we receive a copy of every article dealing with Ethiopian studies upon its publication. In the case of books, we would expect exact bibliographic reference. Some of our readers have been supplying us with relevant data for years, it would, however, help our work immensely if all of you would do us this favour. The authors would be sure then to have the benefit of their recent works being promptly announced.

Siegbert Uhlig